

HTML static code analysis: "input", "select" and "textarea" tags should be labeled

3 minutes

The `<label>` tag defines a label for `<input>`, `<select>` and `<textarea>` elements.

The `<label>` tag improves usability for visually impaired users: Screen readers will announce the label text whenever the focus is set on the input field.

It also improves usability for users with impaired motor control: when the text within the `<label>` element is clicked, the associated input field is toggled.

In most cases, `for` attribute of the `<label>` tag should be equal to the `id` attribute of the related element to bind them together.

Sometimes the field is explained by an icon. In this case the label can be either hidden or the `<input>`, `<select>` or `<textarea>` tags should contain one of the following attributes: `aria-label`, `aria-labelledby`. Screen-readers will use those attributes to describe the field.

The purpose of this rule is to make sure that every `input` (except `submit`, `button`, `image`, and `hidden` inputs), `select`, and `textarea` field has a label.

Noncompliant Code Example

```
<input type="text" name="firstname" />           <!-- Non-Compliant
- no id -->
```

```
<input type="text" name="lastname" id="lastname" /> <!-- Non-
Compliant - no matching label for "lastname" -->
```

```
<label for="address">Address</label>
<input type="text" name="address" id="address" />  <!-- Compliant
-->
```

```
<input type="hidden" name="time" value="...">    <!-- Compliant -
"hidden" type is excluded -->
<input type="submit" value="Send" />               <!-- Compliant -
"submit" type is excluded -->
```

Compliant Solution

```
<label for="firstname">First name</label>
<input type="text" name="firstname" id="firstname" />
```

```
<label for="lastname">Last name</label>
<input type="text" name="lastname" id="lastname" />
```

<!-- OR -->

```
<input type="text" name="firstname" aria-label="firstname">
```

```
<div id="lastNameId">Last name</div>
<input type="text" name="lastname" aria-
labelledby="lastNameId"/>
```

<!-- still compliant -->

```
<label for="address">Address</label>
<input type="text" name="address" id="address" />
```

```
<input type="hidden" name="time" value="...">
<input type="submit" value="Send" />
```

Exceptions

No issue will be raised on "implicit labels", i.e. `<label>` tags enclosing an `<input>`, `<select>` or `<textarea>` instead of being referencing via an `id`. However, note that the support of this

technic is not supported by all assistive technologies. Thus it is better to reference them by id.

```
<label>
  Name:
  <input type="text" name="name">
</label>
```

See

- [WCAG2, H97](#) - Using label elements to associate text labels with form controls
- [W3C Web Accessibility Tutorials](#) - Labeling Controls